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NETWORK

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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/govmilliken>

Welcome to the 3rd issue of the EDDN Newsletter, a service of the European Disaster Disability Network to inform you about relevant topics on disaster and disability.

HIGHLIGHTS

3 December 2008

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The 2008 theme of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Dignity and justice for all of us". Since its beginning, the United Nations has been committed to realization of universal human rights for all, including the rights of persons with disabilities.

This commitment has been translated into international norms and standards, such as international human rights conventions and international, national and local action for making a difference in the lives of people all over the world.

For more information, please consult
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=109>

Lourdes (France), 2 October 2008

Disability and Emergency: the Italian and French perspective

In a recent conference held in the well-known pilgrimage centre Lourdes last October 2nd, Italian and French Civil Protection Units together with UNITALSI met to discuss more efficient rescue measures tailored to meet the needs of persons with disability. The conference focused on topics related to the risks and perceived risks of persons with disability at home and in public places, paying particular attention to different types of disability and appropriate rescue systems.

The conference was a great success and represented an

important opportunity for dialogue between persons with disability on the one hand and the rescue operators on the other hand and emphasised the importance of involving persons with disability as active actors in the emergency management.

For more information, please consult
protezione.civile@unitalsi.it

EMERGENCY NEWS

Honduras Badly Hit by Severe Flooding in Central America

Weeks of torrential rain at the end of October have caused devastation and destruction in Central America. Countries most affected by flooding and landslides include Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua where tens of thousands of people have sought refuge in shelters.

In Honduras alone, it is estimated that 100,000 people have been affected by the flooding with at least 8,000 people housed in emergency shelters while the emergency services agency have estimated damage to highways, bridges, crops and houses at 150 million dollars.

The Honduran government has declared a State of Emergency and requested urgent assistance from UNICEF to ensure recovery for children and families, focusing on the areas of water and sanitation; health and nutrition; and education.

Persons with disability in Honduras will require particular assistance both in the critical phase and the aftermath.

For a list of disability-related NGOs in Honduras, refer to:
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DISABILITY>

Publications

The U.S. Department of Education, Emergency Management Research and People With Disabilities: A Resource Guide, Washington, D.C., 2008

This resource guide is the culmination of cooperative efforts by NIDRR (The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research) the Department of Education, the Research Subcommittee of the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities (ICC), and the New Freedom Initiative Subcommittee of the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR).

The guide provides a listing and description of research projects funded by the federal government and nonfederal entities, research recommendations that have come out of conferences on emergency management and disability, and a bibliography of relevant research publications.

<http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/index.html#emergencyguide>

Making Community Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs Accessible to People with Disabilities: An ADA Guide for Local Governments

This useful guide is available on ADA (Americans with Disability Act) website hosted by the US Department of Justice. It outlines in very simple and practical terms how local governments can make emergency preparedness and response programs accessible to people with disabilities as is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

<http://www.ada.gov/emereprepguidescrn.pdf>

Verona Charter

Update on the [Verona Charter](#) on the rescue of persons with disabilities in case of disaster.

Web: <http://internazionali.ulss20.verona.it/>

UN Enable

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Web: <http://www.un.org/disabilities>

ULSS 20 Verona

ULSS 20 Verona, one of the local public health and social authorities in the Veneto Region, provides social and health services in the Verona province.

Web: <http://www.ulss20.verona.it/>



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FSD news

FSD (Flooding: Rapid Response & Simulation Schemes for safety of Disabled) is a European Commission co-financed project led by the Italian Local Public Health Authority Ulss20 Verona in collaboration with a team of European Partners.

Ferrara launches Local Disability Disaster Network

In the context of the EU co-financed project FSD (Flood safe for Disabled) AUSL Ferrara, an Italian Local Public Health Authority, has recently launched a local disability disaster network consisting of the Health Authority, the Social Services, a local voluntary association of Persons with Disability, the local Fire Department, the local Civil Protection unit and the Prefect's office.

The group will meet on a monthly basis and will organise targeted focus groups where persons with disabilities and operators alike will be consulted on their experiences and impressions on an appropriate response in terms of preparation, training, facilities and resources.

For more information, please contact m.delacalle@ausl.fe.it

Second Technical Meeting

Verona, Italy - December 2008

This meeting represents an important opportunity for project partners of the EC co-financed project FSD (Flood Safe for Disabled) to discuss project findings to date and agree on the next steps for the finalisation of project activities due to conclude in February 2009.

For more information about the FSD project, please contact Ms Paola Paon (ppaon@ulss20.verona.it)

upcoming events

Orlando, Florida - February 19-22, 2009

International Disaster Management Conference

The 2009 International Disaster Management Conference has been designed to meet the educational needs of all persons and agencies involved with emergency preparedness, response, and disaster recovery. <http://www.emlrc.org/disaster2009.htm>

past events

Istanbul, Turkey - October 27-28 October, 2008

International workshop: for a new governance of natural risks

The main aim of the workshop organised by the Council of Europe was to encourage public authorities and populations in areas at risk to reinforce their capacity to anticipate and respond to natural disasters.

<http://www.unisdr.org/english/events/v.php?id=3347>

This newsletter is published by ULSS 20 Verona in the framework of the European Disaster Disability Network.

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